



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION - ENTOMOLOGY BRANCH

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January 22, 2004

Dear Mayfield resident,

Last summer eight European male gypsy moths were trapped in Mayfield by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. In addition, three pupal cases and one cast skin were detected in the area. State entomologists have determined that a reproducing population of European gypsy moths exists in Mayfield.

To eradicate the infestation, we are proposing to treat a 7.5-acre site in Mayfield next spring with the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (*Btk*), utilizing ground-based equipment. Your property is located in or near the proposed treatment zone. *Btk* is registered for use in the U.S. by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It has been used successfully in the past on numerous gypsy moth eradication projects, and has a proven safety record.

To learn more about the infestation and our proposed treatment, you are invited to an open house in the library at Mossyrock Junior-Senior High School, 295 Williams Street, Mossyrock on Tuesday, February 17th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Drop in any anytime during this period to pick up literature, review display boards, view a videotape, and/or ask questions of state entomologists.

Boundary of the proposed treatment zone is a half-circle with a radius of approximately 425 feet located just west of Flynn Road where pupal cases were found.

The gypsy moth is one of the most destructive pest insects ever brought into the U.S. In its caterpillar form, the gypsy moth feeds on the foliage of more than 500 species of trees and shrubs, causing enormous damage to the environment and economy in the U.S. each year.

Btk is a selective and effective bacterial insecticide found naturally in the soil. It is toxic only to moths and butterflies which are in the caterpillar stage at the time the insecticide is applied. *Btk* has a proven safety record with people, pets, livestock, birds, fish, and other insects such as bees, and is commonly used by many organic farmers today.

Enclosed for your information is a gypsy moth fact sheet, a map of the proposed treatment site, and a press release sent recently to local media on the proposal to eradicate the infestation. If you have any questions on the infestation or proposed treatment, please call our toll-free hotline (1-800-443-6684), or visit our Web site at www.agr.wa.gov, and click on gypsy moth.

I look forward to seeing you on February 17th.

Sincerely

James L. Marra
State Entomologist

Enclosures

